Environmental clearance for Projects

3560. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of power, irrigation and other developmental projects are pending with Government for environment and forestry clearance;

(b) if so, the details thereof. State-wise, including Maharashtra;

(c) the present status thereof;

(d) the main hurdles in clearing those projects; and

(e) the measures proposed for their early clearance?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) More than 3500 proposals for power, irrigation and other developmental projects have been submitted by various State Governments during 1998 to June, 2001 under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for forestry • clearance. A detailed list of all projects will be lengthy and cumbersome. A State-wise brief abstract of this information indicating their present status is given in the enclosed Statement *{See* below). Perusal of the annexure reveals that while about 73% of the proposals have been decided and about 4.4% are under process. No decision could be taken on about 14.8% proposals as they were incomplete and wanting details sought from the State Government is awaited.

Similarly a State-wise list of number of developmental proposals which are pending for environmental clearance is also annexed. Ninety-five proposals are awaiting clearance as desired data and information is awaited from the project authority and State Governments.'

(d) and (e) The main reason for delay in taking decisions on proposals is because of the time taken by the State Governments in processing the proposals, which involve various levels of scrutiny, cross checks and approvals before the proposal is submitted to the Central Government for consideration. More often than not these proposals lack essential details requiring back referencing. The Ministry has taken up this issue with the State Governments in various fora for the need to reduce the levels of processing of the proposals.

The Central Government has also taken various measures for expeditious clearance of forestry clearance proposals like delegation of powers to Regional Offices to decide cases up to 5 hectare, simplified proforma for submission of proposals involving forest area upto 2 hectare provided no felling of trees is involved, mandatory site inspection only if the forest land to be diverted is more than 100 hectare, etc.

Similarly, for ensuring expeditious decision on environmental clearance proposals, continuous interaction is maintained with the project Authorities for early submission of requisite information and regular meeting of the Expert Committee are held.

Statement

Environmental Clearance for Projects

A. Forestry Clearance Proposals (1998 to June, 2001)

Sl. No.	Stale	No. of Proposals received	Sanctioned	Rejected	Rejected for want of information	Returned/ withdrawn by States	Under consideration of Ministry	Wanting Details sought from the States
1.	Assam	52	19	24	0	3	6	0
2.	Arunachal	24	17	0	0	0	4	3
3.	Andhra Pradesh	88	46	24	5	1	2	10
4.	A & N Islands	18	12	0	0	0	0	6
5.	Bihar	14	7	1	0	2	1	3
6	DNH	78	55	0	0	1	1	21
7.	Gujarat	314	224	4	4	7	9	66
8.	Haryana	172	132	4	9	0	4	23
9.	HP	222	99	9	40	6	6	62
10.	Manipur	3	2	0	0	1	0	0
11.	Meghalaya	15	14	0	0	1	0	0
12	Mizoram	8	4	0	0	0	2	2
13.	Chandigarh	11	7	0	0	0	1	3
14.	Delhi	7	1	0	0	1	0	5
15.	Goa	11	5	1	0	0	2	3
16.	Punjab	489	323	6	28	5	11	116
17.	Orissa	99	54	4	4	5	9	23
18.	MP	142	69	38	6	8	6	15
19.	Maharashtra	372	211	40	7	6	47	61
20.	Rajasthan	137	78	7	8	15	16	13
21.	Karnataka	117	52	19	13	3	7	23
22.	Kerala	33	23	1	2	1	1	5
23.	Tamil Nadu	63	51	3	3	0	1	5
24.	Tripura	83	74	3	0	3	1	2
25.	Sikkim	14	13	0	0	0	1	0
26.	West Bengal	10	5	2	0	0	1	2
27.	Uttar Pradesh	120	86	2	3	12	3	14
28.	Uttaranchal	762	654	23	19	29	7	30
29.	Chhattisgarh	25	21	1	0	0	1	2
30.	Jharkhand	35	14	1	8	1	6	5
	TOTAL:	3538	2372	217	159	111	156	523

B. Pending Environmental Clearance Proposals (As on 31.7.2001)

Sl.No.	State/UT	No. of Proposals Pending
1.	Andhra Pradesh	14
2.	A & N Islands	1
3.	Bihar	1
4.	Gujarat	6
5.	Haryana	1
6.	Meghalaya	2
7.	Delhi	1
8.	Goa	1
9.	Punjab	1
10.	Orissa	4
II.	Madhya Pradesh	2
12.	Maharashtra	18
13.	Rajasthan	4
14	Karnataka	7
15.	Kerala	3
16.	Tamil Nadu	13
17.	Lakshadweep	3
18.	West Bengal	1
19.	Uttar Pradesh	5
20.	Chhattisgarh	7
	TOTAL:	95

Environmental Clearance to Irrigation Proposals of A.P.

3561. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some irrigation proposals received from Andhra Pradesh are pending with Government for approval under Forest (Conservation) Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof, proposal-wise; and

(c) by when these proposals are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) The Central Government has received 14 irrigation proposals from Government of Andhra Pradesh from 1998 to June, 2001.

Of these 14 proposals received for forestry clearance, 11 have been approved, 1 rejected on merit, 1 closed for non-furnishing of wanting details by the State Government, 1 withdrawn by the State Government and no proposal is pending with the Central Government for forestry clearance under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.